

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

East Greenwich High School Auditorium

300 Avenger Drive

East Greenwich, RI 02818

**ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE
SUBJECT TO A VOTE**

The first September meeting of the School Committee was called to order at 7:05p.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2007 at the East Greenwich High School Auditorium. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. Public Comments

Bill Daley, Peirce Street, stated that the number one job of the School Committee is to settle the teacher's contract. The School Committee is here doing business but there is nothing more important than getting teachers back in the classroom. He feels that the teachers deserve an increase and money should be taken from other areas.

Garrett Neaves, 170 Grandview Road, stated that if one side has all the power the other side can't bring them to an agreement. He stated that the School Committee has no leverage.

Dr. Albert Ross, Tanglewood Drive, stated that people always think the school Committee is hiding money but there is no money. He noted that money can't be taken out of maintenance. He also stated that he would like to pay people whatever they want but to have a

strike is not sending the right message to our children. He noted that striking is illegal.

Rebecca Ellis, Brayton Street, stated that there is no money to pay teachers and it is unfair to expect the taxpayers to pay. She also noted that she is behind the School Committee all the way. She stated that it is unfair for the students to go through this.

Bill Wardwell, Cedar Avenue, stated that he moved to East Greenwich for the high quality of education that is provided. Teachers are asking to be treated with some average increase in salary. He noted that the average of the Rhode Island Association of School Committee districts is 3%, and the share of benefits is at or below what East Greenwich teachers are paying.

Christine Rivers, Lillibridge Drive, stated that class size is over the maximum and teachers are fighting for class size to benefit the children of East Greenwich.

Renu Engelhart stated that class size is 33 in Las Vegas. She noted that she pays 25% of her health insurance and wishes they could give teachers more money,

Maura Meiser, Flintstone Court, stated that each side should give a little and get kids back into the classroom. She also noted that teachers and School Committee should be models, and all sides should get together and role model for the kids in the community.

3. Recognitions

The following people were recognized for their commitment to the students and citizens of the East Greenwich community.

3.1 Robert Corr, Coach of the Year

3.2 Facilities Committee, working to build a new middle school and make additions to the high school

3.3 Robert Petrucci, Genocide Educators Award

4. Appointment

COACH

On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following coach:

4.1 Dave Kelaghan, assistant girls' tennis coach at EGHS

5. Resignation

On a motion made by Mrs. Palumbo and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following resignation:

5.1 Raven Quimby, Science Teacher at Cole Middle School, effective August 22

6. Report from Vortex on soil testing at Cole Middle and East Greenwich High Schools

7. Costs related to clean-up of drywell at Cole Middle and East Greenwich High Schools

237

Mr. Meyers noted that both drywells were pumped out and he is putting together an EPA clean-up plan. There is a 30 day waiting period and then a special cleaning. DEM will help to expedite the application with EPA. Vortex will develop specs for the removal of the drywell. He also noted that the costs could be over \$100,000 for testing, analysis and removal. Mr. Meyers would like to use the \$250,000 of the capital reserve account for this emergency. Mrs.

Guliano stated that she spoke to DEM and EPA to see if there is money for clean-up. We did file a claim with our insurance company. Mrs. Friedemann stated that she has a problem taking money out of the reserve for emergencies. She stated that the school department needs to go on a fiscal diet before that fund is touched. Mrs. Guliano asked if we could go back to the Town Council.

8. Home School Request

8.1 On a motion made by Mrs. Friedemann and seconded by Mrs. Guliano, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the home school plan for Isabella Colucci, grade one.

9. Building Committee Report

Jon Winikur and Ed Frenette were present at the meeting and they stated that the building committee unanimously endorsed the \$52 million plan to build a new middle school and additions to the high school. They agreed that the best way was to get the design process going was to take it to an independent third party to get a cost. Mr. Winikur noted that the estimates came in at \$65 million, and he knew it would come in high. Mr. Frenette stated that an addition of four science rooms should satisfy everyone. He feels that the administrative staff should be brought down to street level providing a higher level of security. Mrs. Friedemann had a concern with evacuation during fire drills with a three story building. and Mr. Frenette stated that the building will be able to be evacuated easily. Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to accept option #3 for \$52 million. The motion passed with Mrs. Friedemann voting no.

10. Second Reading and Vote on Bullying Policy

The first reading of this policy was held at the last School Committee meeting and everything else is the same. Mr. Oliverio stated that this is consistent with State Law. Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the Bullying Policy. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Wellness Policy Changes

Mrs. Guliano stated that they are not banning certain foods just recommending them. Mrs. Guliano made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the changes to the Wellness Policy. The motion passed unanimously.

12. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Guliano stated that teachers are very much a part of the East Greenwich community and this is a very difficult situation. She respects all of them. She noted that they are looking at budget projections that are very frightening. She is looking forward to getting the kids back to school.

Mrs. Friedemann stated that there were three members of the School Committee at the September 3 mediation session. She was ready to make progress. She noted that everyone has a different view but there was no bad faith, and the School Committee wanted to get this done.

13. On a motion made by Mrs. Palumbo and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go Executive Session at 7:47p.m. under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) for the purpose of Teacher Contract Negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary